

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05564 282358Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 EB-11 H-03 DRC-01

/158 W

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R 281640Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8782

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MCAP, MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: SENATE VOTES ON TROOPS AND BURDEN-SHARING

REF: STATE 192041 AND 192132

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05564 282358Z

1. EMBOFF INFORMED FONOFF NATO AFFAIRS CHIEF (AMBASSADOR DEVER) OF SENATE ACTIONS REPORTED REFTELS AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARAS 3 AND 4 OF STATE 192041. EMBOFF DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT DIFFERENCE IN VOTES STRONGLY INDICATES THAT REAL FOCUS OF US CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IS NOT US SECURITY COMMITMENTS ABROAD IN THE ABSTRACT BUT RATHER THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS BY OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES.

2. BELGIAN PRESS HAS CHARACTERIZED THE 51-44 DEFEAT OF THE MANSFIELD/CRANSTON PROPOSAL AS A REVERSAL OF AN EARLIER FAVORABLE VOTE OF 49-46. ACCORDING TO "LE PEUPLE" (OFFICIAL SOCIALIST DAILY), THE CHANGE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PRESSURE AND "TELEPHONE CALLS FROM GENERAL GOODPASTER TO VARIOUS SENATORS ON (RECEIVING) NEWS OF THE INITIAL VOTE."

3. A SEPTEMBER 28 EDITORIAL IN "LA LIBRE BELGIQUE" (CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC DAILY), AFTER CALLING THE DEFEAT OF THE MANSFIELD-CRANSTON PROPOSAL A VICTORY FOR THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, OFFERS THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON THE PASSAGE OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT: "THIS AMENDMENT -- THERE IS NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT -- BOTHERS PRESIDENT NIXON FAR LESS. IT CAN EVEN SERVE HIM IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEANS TO GET THEM TO TAKE A LARGER SHARE OF THE COSTS OF THE STATIONING OF TROOPS. IN BRIEF, IT CAN BE SUPPOSED THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WILL USE THIS AMENDMENT AS A PRETEXT FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMON MARKET. BUT, IF THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS TO PUT THE KNIFE TO THE THROAT OF THE EUROPEANS, IT IS PERHAPS MAKING A BAD CALCULATION. CERTAINLY, THE NINE AND THEIR NATO PARTNERS WILL WITHOUT DOUBT ACCEPT A REVIEW OF THE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE WESTERN COMMON DEFENSE EFFORT. BUT THEY KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER IS SO INTERESTED IN WITHDRAWING ITS TROOPS. FROM THE MOMENT THAT THE US PROCEEDED TO A REDUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES ON THE TLD CONTINENT, A VOID WOULD BE CREATED IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND TO FILL IT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REINFORCE THE POTENTIAL OF NUCLEAR ARMS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS PROSPECT WOULD CONSIDERABLY DISPLEASE THE SOVIETS. AS MUCH AS THE KREMLIN HAS WISHED FOR SOME YEARS THAT THE AMERICANS LEAVE, IT WISHES EVEN MORE TODAY THAT THEY STAY. ONE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN TROOPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05564 282358Z

WOULD HAVE THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT -- IF IT IS NOT THE RESULT OF A METICULOUS NEGOTIATION -- OF BREAKING THE FRAGILE EQUILIBRIUM ON WHICH DETENTE IN EUROPE RESTS. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE NINE LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THE STRUCTURES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THEY WOULD BE OBLIGED TO HASTEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON DEFENSE. MESSRS. NIXON AND BREZHNEV KNOW BEFORE-HAND ALL THE DRAWBACKS..." STRAUZ-HUPE

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